Between the Lines

152 Madison Avenue
New York City

THE CHRISTIAN LAYMAN'S INFORMATION SERVICE
CONDENSED, NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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Vol. 1. No. 16 August 3, 1942

A Statement of Policy:

To our many new subscribers we should like to give a restatement of the policy of *Between the Lines*. It is not intended to serve as a newspaper or magazine. It is a condensed, authentic report on significant trends of concern to the Christian mind. We seek to be neither pro-labor nor pro-capital for we do not believe unchristian socialization is the answer to unchristian capitalism. Either form of society would work if it were Christian. We are neither anti-administration nor pro-administration. We are for the action of the government when it is Christian and opposed to it when it is unchristian.

While we whole-heartedly support American arms in the struggle for victory as the only way out of our present dilemma, we believe war is a preventable crime and that the economic or political imperialism which breeds war is incompatible with the Christian faith. We seek to build through the fellowship of these pages an ever-increasing body of alert, informed, Christian citizens whose influence can be of inestimable value in the building of a more Christian society.

American War Aims Soft-Pedaled

There is something going on behind the scenes in American life that is far-reaching, sinister and mysterious. We have not been able to get complete coverage on it, for the evolution of these circumstances is not yet complete, but what we have learned we will pass on to you.

As reported in a recent issue of *Between the Lines*, Henry Wallace, Sumner Welles and Milo Perkins, have given utterances in public addresses, officially representing the administration's attitude, that pointed to a vast new liberal trend in the war aims of America: War aims that clearly promised a better world for the common man—yellow, brown or black, a new world of freedom and economic justice at the end of the conflict. *Between the Lines* spoke rejoicingly of these trends in the issue of June 22, but now a survey of the nation's press shows *that these speeches suffered widespread suppression at the time they were made.* The news weeklies made comparatively brief reports on them, but such large newspapers as the *New York Herald Tribune* and its syndicate, *Chicago Daily News, Chicago Tribune* and hundreds of other newspapers and news weeklies met the speeches with silence.

The next development was the hailing

(*Continued on next page*)

Wage Increases

The public has not heard the whole story of the labor unions' new demand for wage increases touched off recently by the "little steel" demand for an increase of $1.00 a day and settled by the government war-labor board for a 43c daily increase. The newspapers have been blistering the workers for their demands for higher wages, accusing the working men of using the war program for selfish wage boosts.

What the newspapers *have not told you* is that President Roosevelt tried to forestall these higher wage demands, in his recent reports to Congress and the nation on the inflation threat, by asking business leadership to cut down profits, to agree to greater taxes on profits, and to limit top salaries to $25,000 a year after taxation. You will remember the $25,000 per year suggestion was promptly squashed and corporations, in spite of new tax rates are piling up the biggest profits in history.

Also the salaries of top men are rapidly being increased. For instance, Eugene Grace, of Bethlehem Steel, has upped his salary from $271,000 to $357,000 per year; Tom Girdler, chairman of Republic Steel, went from $176,000 to $275,000. Frank Purnell, president of Youngstown Sheet and Tube, increased his salary from $72,000 to $95,000. That's slightly more than a buck a day from where we sit. Remington Rand, still in contempt of a court decree upholding a Labor Board order, finds enough money in its treasury to increase President J. H. Rand's remuneration from $92,000 to $125,000 while it refuses to complete paying its employees the back pay due them under the order.

Let us say that working men and union bosses are selfish and greedy—but we can also see the hopelessness of the situation when business at the top so blindly leads the way in selfishness and greed.

"In Union There Is Strength"

Do you wonder why working men join unions? Here are clippings picked at random from *one* issue of a labor weekly:

A WAGE BOOST of $45 per month, two days a month off with pay, and paid vacations, are included in the agreement signed recently by Local 22826, Railway Patrolmen, with the Terminal Railroad Association, St. Louis.

A BOOST in hourly wages and paid vacations have been gained by the members of Federal Labor Union 22897 employed at the Berger Supply Company, Pittsburgh, as the result of an arbitration award.

THE MEMBERS OF Local 20358, Paper Box Workers, are benefiting from an increase in hourly wages gained recently from the Western Containers Company, Seattle, Washington.

AN AGREEMENT HAS been signed by Federal Labor Union 21132 with the Keokuk Electro-Metals Company, Keokuk, Iowa, which calls for a ten per cent increase in pay.

AN AGREEMENT WHICH raises weekly wages was recently negotiated by Federal Labor Union 21369, Cannery Workers, with the Van Houtan Company, New York City.

The power of the labor movement is due to the fact that years ago, before unions were organized, the average steel and iron worker, coal miners or railroad men worked twelve hours for poverty-level wages. In spite of all the evils of unionism, which have been abundant, labor's better living conditions, high wages and shorter hours have been gained almost entirely by the steady pressure of union action. Suppose Christian industrialists had been willing to lead in these advances in just and fair distribution of the benefits of toil without waiting for the violence of unionism to compel them. . . .

Correction

Between the Lines was misinformed in its report that sugar rationing would be stopped. It is true that with the bad planning that has characterized much of our war program, the sugar rationing also was badly bungled. There is plenty of sugar but rationing cards are apparently for the duration. The government says it is because of transportation. Sugar wholesalers say there is plenty of sugar everywhere. *We* can only say that your guess is as good as ours!

Rolling Stock

A former Belgian parliamentarian says that the Germans have drained all but 1,800 of his country's 4,200 rail locomotives, and all but 40,000 out of 120,000 coaches. Little known appears the fact that, shortly prior to the invasion, Germany made a demand for a loan of 10,000 freight cars, which was refused and which may have had some share in the decision to strike in the spring of 1940. The Nazis had long since ruined German rolling stock by neglecting repairs and manufacture for the arms drive. This was one reason, often overlooked, why the now-occupied lands were coveted.

American War Aims Soft-Pedaled

(*Continued from first page*)

of these official utterances by liberal leaders in America through the *liberal and religious press.* In a thousand places in America, convention speakers, liberal leaders, and educators, referred gratefully and prophetically to the pronouncements of the officials of the administration that promised a new way for the common man at the end of the war. *It is now sharply outlined in the black and white of printer's ink that when the powers that govern America's economic life, and so in turn control the nation's news channels, discovered that the important official pronouncements were being taken seriously,* the policy of silence was changed to a scourge of denunciation, smears and sneering against these same utterances of hope that were being reiterated to the world by the voices of religious and liberal leaders of the common man. One New York paper called it "the chatter of dreamers about a brave new world that has no reality in it." Two Chicago papers said Wallace was a mystic, "spinning a web of dreams." A leading west coast paper called Sumner Welles' address "oratorical flap-doodle." J. N. "Ding" Darling, famous cartoonist of the *New York Herald Tribune* and syndicate, drew a vicious cartoon making fun of Wallace. Protests from irate readers poured in by the thousands but the *Tribune* syndicate ignored them. The *Chicago Daily News* ran a three column attack as an editorial on Wallace's speech on June 5th, weeks after the talk had been broadcast. The Christian citizen cannot look upon this trend without alarm and boiling resentment that the powers which govern America's economic life—the American dollar aristocracy—are determined that this war shall not be a war for the common man. They are the ones who have been forcing the government to place over three-fourths of the war contracts with less than ten per cent of American business concerns. Here is something to keep our eyes on. Look for more reports on this later.

Propaganda—Home and Abroad

In its releases to this country, our government shows little love lost for the Japanese, calling them many unsavory names and similar terms. Propaganda issued for Japanese consumption, however, has an entirely different slant and sounds much more Christian. Senator Elbert Thomas, of Utah, at one time a Morman missionary to Japan, has been sending, by transocean radio, a series of friendly messages to the people of Japan expressing his faith that they do not willingly wage this war either with China or the United States, and urging them to cease support of their government's

The India Problem

Because of the increased political tenseness in India, let us consider the problem again:

1. Are we being allowed to hear only the British imperialistic side of the situation? Are British officials allowing no news to come from India that gives the Indian side of the picture? The New York *Times* Magazine recently ran an article which was purported to be an independent utterance of Jawarharal Nehru, the Indian Nationalist leader. However, Indian Nationalists in New York insist that Nehru's utterances were severely trimmed down to avoid difficulty with British-dominated interests in the United States.

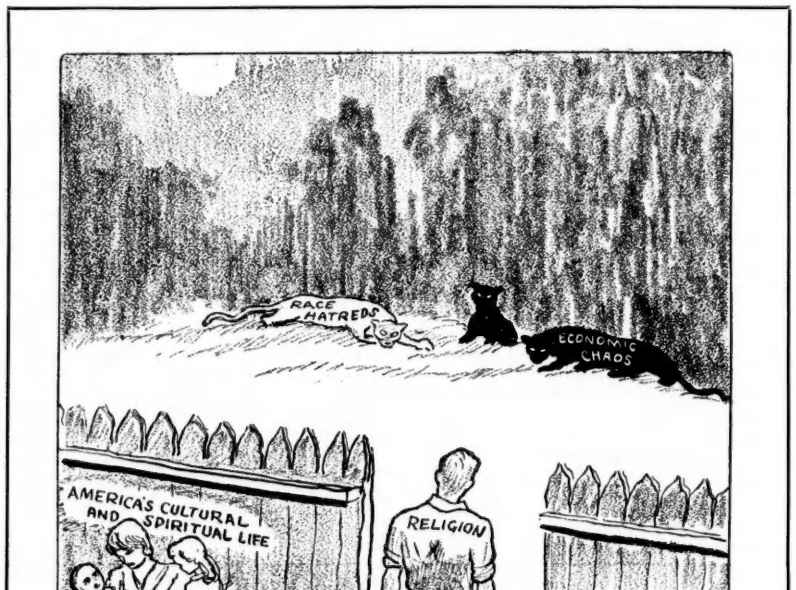
2. The attitude of Gandhi and the Indian National Congress is being misrepresented in British-censored dispatches from India. Gandhi and his followers are not playing along with Japanese leaders nor are they threatening to cooperate or surrender to them.

3. What Gandhi is demanding and is trying to say to the world above the wall of censorship is that Indian freedom is essential for a whole-hearted cooperation of one half billion brown men and the history of Singapore, Rangoon and Mandalay stands as horrible proof. To report this is not being "anti-British"—it is simply sweeping aside deceit about our war aims and saying a victory over the Nazi hordes and Japanese militarists is more important than preserving the privileges of exploitation for a few over many. What is more, 95% of the English people feel this way.

4. The British tories send out an exaggerated picture of the Moslem-Hindu political problem in India. A missionary recently returned from India reports that while the Moslem problem is very real, it is being aggravated by British diplomacy and that the beginning of the solution cannot come until, as Gandhi states, the problem can be approached on a basis of purely Indian interests.

It Must Be a Good Idea After All!

While American newspapers and news weeklies are running stories mocking Gandhi's passive resistance in India against England (or against Japan if Japan invades) these same periodicals are running many dispatches giving glowing accounts of the growing passive resistance in Europe and praising the citizens of Norway, France, etc., for the magnificent war-without-weapons they are waging against Nazi domination. Even the office of War Information of our government has published a circular telling of the tremendously effective methods the conquered Europeans are using slowly and surely to break down Nazi power.



A New Deal for Censorship

There have been several big blow-ups in important quarters over the inexcusable blundering in the handling of war news. The newspapers and radio news services blame the war department censors but the average citizen is getting hungry for straight news.

The rigid and often fantastic censorship of the radio may account in part for its unreliability as a news source but the boys on the air continue their efforts to smooth over the bad news as if to keep us in a make-believe world of unreality. The worst news is announced first in terms of hypothetical advantages, as if it were some sort of blessing in disguise. Usually it takes a week for them to break down and admit that our military losses haven't been clever ruses and that we've had a terrible drubbing somewheres. There *are* a few commentators who will face the facts of life, but the general tone of radio programs is to keep listeners comfortable, happy and ignorant. This same optimism also prevails in the headlines of most newspapers, but the difference is that we *can* read down into the columns of fine print and ferret out the gist of what has really been going on. With the radio we either have to swallow the sugar-coated pills whole or not listen at all.

This is all due to the fact that the whole set up of war news censorship and distribution in Washington has been one of the most poorly handled jobs of the war. Two days before Elmer Davis took over, one important news man in Washington, who had been in Berlin for years, stomped out of a government hand-out office saying "The Nazis give you lies but they're on time and even a lie can have *some* connection with the truth!"

When the clean up came and a lot of the pencil whittlers went out the window, and Elmer Davis went in, newsmen in Washington heaved a sigh of relief. Elmer Davis is tops and is battling bravely against all the blundering habits and lumbering methods that made our war news service so unsatisfactory the first six months of war.

Labor Unions or the Christian Church?

Labor unions are becoming more and more forceful and definite in their leadership in racial relations. Will they take from the church this place of leadership because of our timidity and "too little, too late" philosophy?

Yet it was the immediate and determined action of the C. I. O. in Detroit which ended the strike of 350 white employees of the Dodge truck plant because of the employment of about thirty Negro workers. The union ordered the strikers

friendly messages to the people of Japan expressing his faith that they do not willingly wage this war either with China or the United States, and urging them to cease support of their government's program. Although he has no proof that his messages are getting through, Senator Thomas believes that they are being heard and will be received with increasing sympathy and agreement by the Japanese people.

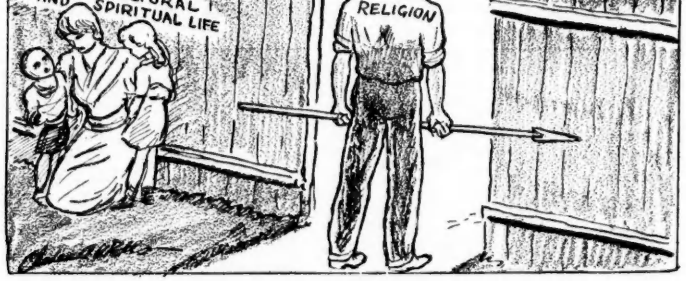
The President Urges Fairness

The attitude of President Roosevelt toward the treatment of enemy aliens is a splendid example of fair-minded thinking, and should do much to help prevent unnecessary, hysterical prejudice, hate and fear within the country. He has vetoed a proposal to cancel the citizenship of any person convicted of a false statement in connection with a government contract on the ground that while such a falsehood is a serious misdemeanor, the severe punishment suggested is hardly in proportion to the crime.

The President has also condemned the practice of barring aliens from war jobs even when they are able to offer proof of their loyalty. No legislation exists thus restricting employment of aliens or naturalized citizens and Mr. Roosevelt expresses the opinion that "a general condemnation of any group or class of persons is unfair and dangerous to the war effort." Perhaps application of this viewpoint on the part of other Americans might have made unnecessary the wholesale and precipitate evacuation of Japanese—both aliens and citizens—from the West Coast.

"Anti-Yankeeism"

We do not hear much about anti-Yankeeism in Mexico yet, according to information from uncensored *Worldover Press* reports, it is doing a great deal to obstruct our war effort there. This feeling is naturally more or less intense according to the groups of people one meets. The principal factors in this complex are well-known; historic and economic relations between the two countries, treatment of Mexicans in the southern states, especially Texas, and finally, the Negro problem in the United States. All this is carefully exploited by Nazi and Fascist agents. And it is impossible to deny that there is a measure of truth in the accusations. The factor which seems to influence thinking most is the treatment of Mexicans in the southwest. So many reliable accounts of maltreatment have come down from the border they cannot all be brushed aside as propaganda. The Mexican also likes to side with the Negro, and every story of racial discrimination in the United States adds more fuel to the anti-Yankee fire.



ON GUARD

War has brought many dangerous prowlers out into the open. The threat toward our way of life as a democracy from some of these prowlers is more dangerous than that of war itself. We demand that every one hate the Japanese and Germans, but we forget that there are a lot of people who can't control their hatreds. Every day we see accounts of the outbursts of these hatreds within the ranks of our democracy. The greedy and unscrupulous who are using the war for economic prowling also lead inevitably toward economic disruption and chaos. We can only be protected from these savage creeping threats by an alert watchful moral consciousness. In every city, in every community the church is on guard. If the church fails, no military victory can save us. If religion does its part, nothing can defeat us or destroy our way of life.

First Hand Uncensored Reports from Asia

Between the Lines has interviewed missionaries who have just returned from Asia. They report that American forces there are being well cared for, and are in good health and spirits despite the trying climate. They relate that our government is working miracles in surrounding our lads with ample medical care, good food and for the most part wholesome surroundings. They even suggest that the contact our boys have with the British fighting men is good for our soldiers who have been influenced toward intemperate drinking and shameful drunkenness by the conditions around our training camps, while the average British soldier, while he drinks often and quite steadily, seldom drinks to the point of drunkenness. The Englishman's disgust with drunkenness has made an impression on some of our men who have been led to think they should get completely "blotto" all the time they are on leave.

The same sources report, however, that during the days of fighting in Burma and Malaya, unbelievable conditions of inefficiency, blundering and blind officiousness existed in British military circles . . . and furthermore, doubts were expressed whether this situation would ever be corrected until the United Nations defenses in Asia were placed completely in the control of the democratic fighting men of America. The British imperial fighting man no matter where he was from, was brave beyond measure, efficient and courteous, but the British officials had made absolutely no preparations for jungle fighting (in areas that were nine-tenths jungle!) while the Japanese soldiers were superbly trained and equipped for jungle warfare.

Also there is ample evidence that the atrocity stories reported from centers of Japanese military occupation *are* true. *Between the Lines* expressed the opinion some time ago that these stories should be accepted with reservations, due to the usual exaggeration of war-horror stories. We feel now there is reason to believe that the major portion of the reports are true.

A "Good Neighbor" to the Caribbean

One thing of lasting importance President Roosevelt has set in motion is the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission whose aim is to raise the standard of living and improve social conditions in the whole Caribbean area and promises greater democracy for natives. This contribution to the spread of the four freedoms throughout the world has received little praise and much less publicity than it deserves.

mined action of the C. I. O. in Detroit which ended the strike of 350 white employees of the Dodge truck plant because of the employment of about thirty Negro workers. The union ordered the strikers to go back to work or to get jobs somewhere else. They went back to work.

A similar incident took place in the Detroit Naval Arsenal. Eight Negroes had been trained in the plant's school with the knowledge and consent of the union, but when they went to work, some of the white workers went on strike. In this case, both the government and the union informed the strikers in no uncertain terms that it is the government's policy that Negroes be employed without discrimination and the trouble was promptly cleared up.

What kind of a world will it be if labor solves the race problem instead of the Christian church?

Housing Headaches

All over America social struggles created by war regulations are breaking out. One significant trend of this wartime social conflict is the effort to regulate rents. Housing facilities in countless communities are woefully inadequate and landlords who are prevented from asking exorbitant rents can, and do, make severe restrictions, refusing to rent to people with children, to new-comers to the community, etc. The sorest spot in this situation is the problem of Negro housing. Limited to too-small areas and offered inferior accommodations at disproportionate rents, the Negro finds himself in an unenviable position.

Double V

We hope you didn't miss two important articles in the July *Readers' Digest*. "How the Negro Fights for Freedom" describes the Double V movement among the colored population of America. As a leading Negro voice phrased it, "Let colored Americans adopt the Double V—VV for a double vicory: the first over our enemies from without, the second over our enemies within". The slogan of the Double V movement is "Democracy at Home, Abroad". The movement has been tremendously popular and is worth watching and considering. The article discusses the Negro American's place in our military forces as well as on the home front.

Another significant article in this same issue of the *Digest* is called "Cigarette Ad Fact and Fiction." It exposes the falsity of the pseudo-scientific advertising claims of cigarette advertising, and in general bears out reports *Between the Lines* has previously printed concerning advertising and tobacco business. Only a publication like the *Readers' Digest* could print such facts because publications dependent on advertising can't afford to offend the big space advertisers.

"Fellowship" Farm

A new project being started in the south which should have a far-reaching and important effect upon the religious and economic life there is Koinonia Farm ("Koinonia" from the Greek word meaning "fellowship"). Koinonia Farm will train Negro preachers in modern farming methods as well as in the religious nurture of souls. Its purpose is, "To relate, through a ministry to both individuals and community, the entire life of the people to Jesus Christ and His teachings. . . . To provide an opportunity for Christian students to serve a period of apprenticeship in developing community life on the teachings and principles of Jesus. To seek to conserve the soil, which we believe to be God's holy earth.

"The methods to be used in realizing these purposes include: Scientific and practical farming, so as to make the undertaking as nearly self-supporting as possible, to afford a demonstration of successful and unsuccessful methods, and to provide an information service for farm families, such as personal counseling and advice, reference files of magazines, government bulletins, books, etc.; Preaching and teaching the Bible upon every opportunity—in vacation Bible schools, Sunday schools in neglected areas, institutes for preachers and religious workers, and informal discussions and personal contacts"; etc.

The men who head the project, Dr. Clarence L. Jordan, and Rev. Martin England, are admirably equipped for their task. They have had thorough training both in theology and agriculture and have had wide experience in work with southern Negroes.

Several unusual features distinguish this significant and unique plan for Christian service. It is interracial, cooperative and communal, it is controlled by investment of life rather than capital, it will apply the principle of distribution according to need, and will minister to the largest and most neglected minority group in America—the rural, southern Negro. Forward-looking Christians will watch its development with keen interest.

Administration Fighting to Prevent Power Shortage

We have reported to you occasionally concerning the conflict between the great privately owned light and power utilities and the government-owned power projects, some of which are now in operation and some still in the blue print stage. Remember that the newspapers and news weeklies are subservient to the light and power corporations through their vast control over advertising. Thus, you are getting only one side of the story as you read the continuous news propaganda against government power projects and the stories of the vast service to the war effort being made by the private corporations.

Recently the Brookings Institute, one of America's leading research institutions, published a report of tremendous importance which was quite generally ignored by the commercial press and radio for obvious reasons. The report stated what has been claimed by federal power authorities for some time—that we are moving toward *a very serious power shortage all over America due to the failure of the public utilities of America to expand sufficiently to meet the country's growing need.*

The privately owned utilities which have furnished most of the country's light and power do not want to expand more than is absolutely necessary because they fear such expansion would break the monopoly control they have had over electrical resources in the past, and destroy the accompanying high prices and profit they have been able to maintain. On the other hand, the government through its federal power projects (Tennessee Valley, etc.) has proven that an enormous increase of electrical power can be made available to American industry and agriculture very economically through the increased use of undeveloped natural power resources in our country.

The private corporations, as we have repeatedly reported in *Between the Lines*, are fighting these federal plans savagely at every turn. The Brookings Institute report, a scientific study without special interest or prejudice, *should* clear the air for greater progress in the expansion of our natural resources were it not for the fact that such findings are usually squashed and silenced by the money powers that still control much of our lives and resources. Thus a battle is being fought of which the average citizen knows little, yet which affects almost every department of his life.

One of the familiar items of publicity which the utility corporations are using is the denial that they are privately owned. They broadcast the information that they, like the Bell Telephone Corporation, are owned by thousands of average citizens who are stockholders, thus they are public servants owned by the public they serve. The facts are that the stockholders have little or nothing to do with the policy of the corporations. The stockholder gets his dividend in good years, or gets notes of regret from the company treasurer when business is low, but the *big* stockholders (the Morgan interests of Wall Street, etc.) *do* control the company policy, control the profits both good and bad years, see to it that profits are syphoned off into big salaries for company officers and boards of directors, and tricky mergers of interlocking, inter-company holding companies which net more lush margins and fees to the same directors and company officers. The little fellow sits home clutching his stock and coupons, thinking he is part of it, when it is more accurate to say he is "the goat" since it is his invested money that made the whole scheme possible. These statements are based upon facts brought out in numerous federal suits against utility companies in recent years.

Refugees

There are increased grumblings that are now reaching high places because of the number of able-bodied male refugees who loll around fashionable beach clubs and resorts and idle in the smart night clubs in New York. What these Americans want to know is why rich young foreigners should dawdle luxuriously in safe places while young Americans are fighting all over the world.

In some so-called exclusive clubs, you hear more French spoken than English. No wonder members of long standing want to know whose war this is anyway. You also hear behind-the-hand remarks as to how these rich refugees got out with so much money and what effect their cashing in and clearing out had on the destinies of their countries. For months it has been an open scandal that many foreigners keep their fortunes in that well-known "sock," thus avoiding taxes. Luxury stores that sell fine furs, and rare jewels, are glad to see them because they buy lavishly.

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